

What your LibraryPlus centres can offer you

South Taranaki residents and ratepayers have access to seven LibraryPlus; Hāwera, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Kaponga, Manaia, Pātea and Waverley.

Along with a wide range of books and magazines to suit all interests, each LibraryPlus has audiobooks, newspapers, access to some online databases and a large selection of eBooks to choose from. Free Wi-Fi and Chromebooks are available to use in our LibraryPlus, which make visiting the warm library during the winter months an enjoyable experience as you're able to connect with friends and whānau from around the country and wider world. Our LibraryPlus centers are a one-stop-shop for almost all council related services, not only can you choose books for your weekend reading you can also pay rates, register your dog or tell us about something that needs sorting. If you are looking for something to do, we offer a variety of social get togethers, including book clubs, coffee morning and



craft groups for adults as well as a variety of services for our tamāriki to enjoy after school or in the school holidays. We offer specially designed activities for the youngest and oldest members of our communities such as Baby and Toddler sessions and Senior Movement and Digital classes.

You can find out about all we offer by visiting our website www.southtaranaki.com/libraryplus, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/libraryplus, or email us at librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz

Plan Notice of Plan Change 3 Papakāinga Development

Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991

The South Taranaki District Council has prepared proposed Plan Change 3 to the Operative South Taranaki District Plan (District Plan) under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The purpose of Plan Change 3 is to:

- Update the operative Papakāinga Development provisions to better support Iwi aspirations for Papakāinga Development, including definitions, objectives and policies, and zone-based rule frameworks.
- Enable a pathway for Papakāinga Development on General Title Land.

You can read Plan Change 3 online at (www.southtaranaki.com/planchange3). If you have any questions, please contact the Council's Planning team by phone on 0800 111 323 or by email at planchange@stdc.govt.nz.

The following persons may make a submission on the proposal:

- the South Taranaki District Council itself; and
- any other person may make a submission but, if the person could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, then the person may do so only if the person is directly affected by an effect of the proposal that:
 - o adversely affects the environment; and

- o does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

You may make a submission to the South Taranaki District Council by completing a submission form online at (www.southtaranaki.com/planchange3) or sending a written submission to South Taranaki District Council at (105-111 Albion Street, Hāwera). Copies of the submission form are also available from the website, and local service centres and LibraryPlus centres.

The submission must be in accordance with Form 5 as set out in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003 and must state whether or not you wish to be heard on the submission.

Submissions close 5pm Monday 13 May 2024

South Taranaki District Council
The date of this notice is 15 April 2024.
The address for service is the same as those set out above for submissions.

Tuia te Taitonga tāpiringa

Southlink Extra

Autumn 2024



Welcome to Southlink Extra

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Southlink Extra. This quarterly newsletter complements our Council Southlink publication, which appears weekly in the Taranaki Star and provides another way for us to keep you informed about what the Council is doing in our District.



Draft Plan Looking after District's Infrastructure amid Skyrocketing costs

Increased spending on roads and wastewater infrastructure, and a commitment to getting on with town centre upgrades in the District's smaller communities were some of the big-ticket items in the South Taranaki District Council's draft 10-year plan. South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the District is on an upward trajectory and the Council's draft Long Term Plan is about maintaining that momentum while also doing what's needed to look after the District's assets.

"In previous feedback, our residents have told us that they want to see better roads, our towns amenities and gardens looking good and an improved dog control service. In response, over the next three years, we're proposing to increase our roading expenditure, have committed to continuing town centre upgrades in Hāwera, Manaia, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley, and have budgeted to increase resources in the animal control team," he says. "The big challenge for us is how we afford to do this at a time when local government is facing unprecedented cost increases. Like households and businesses across the country, Council is facing increased costs for the things we buy. Local government inflation has risen by around 20% over the last two years and continues to rise. Fuel, bitumen, electricity, construction, and insurance costs have all increased considerably - in some cases contractors' costs have

increased up to 60%. Higher interest rates have increased the cost of borrowing and paying back debt and compliance costs driven by government requirements have meant we need to spend a lot more on our infrastructure. This means we need to pay more just to keep doing what we are already doing, without adding anything else," says Mayor Nixon.

Mayor Nixon says the Council worked tirelessly to find savings across all activities to keep the rates increase as low as possible in the proposed plan, including reducing budgets for things like the Hāwera Town revitalisation project, tourism, and events, delaying some non-urgent capital projects works, increasing borrowing and the amount Council's Long Term Investment Fund subsidises rates each year by an additional \$350k. Despite this, the average total rate increase for the 2024/25 Year is 11.29% with an average rate increase over the next ten years of 5.47%.

"We know the rate increase will be really hard for a lot of ratepayers. It's higher than what we want and higher than we've had over the previous ten years, but it reflects what it costs to simply maintain existing services while ensuring our critical infrastructure meets our community's needs and Government requirements," says Mayor Nixon.

Please continue reading over the page...

Keep up to date with Council news!

Each week we send out Southlink (our Council newsletter in the Taranaki Star) as an e-newsletter to those who subscribe. Are you interested? Email us at southlink@stdc.govt.nz to be added to the list! Don't forget to download Antenna and report issues on your phone while you're at it, find out more at www.southtaranaki.com/antenna



Whakapā mai / Contact us

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Online www.southtaranaki.com
Facebook search 'South Taranaki District Council'

South Taranaki

LONG TERM PLAN
2024-2034

Continued on from page 1...

"If we don't maintain our assets well, they will cost us more in the long term if we have to replace them sooner than expected or all at once. You don't have to look hard to see places around the country where years of underinvestment by councils has led to unacceptable infrastructure failures and we don't want South Taranaki to be in that situation." The skyrocketing costs are affecting councils right across the country. According to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) of 48 Councils surveyed almost 80% are proposing rate increases above 12%, with the average being a 15.3% increase.

"Councils are acutely aware they need to balance the need for investment with affordable increases, but the pressure has reached a tipping point and I think we need to have a national conversation about local government funding – including the value of the services councils provide to communities."

"Given the major cost increases we are facing, we believe our proposed Long Term Plan will allow us to do what we are required to do and provide the services and facilities our communities expect, but now we want to know what our residents think."

What is driving rates rises?

LGNZ commissioned Infometrics to analyse increases in local government costs that are driving rates rises. They found costs for councils **were up 20% across the board**. The following essential costs are, on average, more expensive than three years ago:

Civil construction costs are up

27%

Roads and water supply systems are up

27%

The cost to build bridges is up

38%

Sewage systems are up

30%

TARANAKI KI TE TONGA – KA PUTA, KA ORA!

South Taranaki – great people, connected communities, where we belong!



MANA TAIAO ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

- Reforestation programme - replant 150 hectares by 2027.
- Protect the Pātea saltmarsh.
- Establish a regional organic materials processing facility (in partnership with all Taranaki district councils and private enterprise).
- Minimise waste including introducing weekly kerbside food scraps collection, change to fortnightly rubbish kerbside collection, improvements to transfer stations and establishment of a resource recovery centre in Hāwera.
- Develop a roadmap for future climate change emissions reduction and adaptation.
- Establish a \$10 million emergency disaster recovery fund.
- Upgrade our wastewater network and build new tertiary wastewater treatment plants for Waverley, Hāwera, Pātea, Kaponga and Manaia wastewater treatment plants.
- Build a new anaerobic lagoon for the Hāwera wastewater treatment plant.



MANA ORANGA ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- Continue to develop the South Taranaki Business Park.
- Complete installation of water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure for residential growth in Hāwera.
- Provide assistance to owners of commercial earthquake prone buildings.
- Subsidise rates on average by \$4.22 million per annum using earnings from the Long-Term Investment Fund
- Spend an average of \$46.6 million per annum on the road network, including an average of \$1.1 million on footpaths each year.
- Complete water treatment enhancement and water pressure improvements in Pātea.
- Build new reservoirs for Ōpunakē, Waverley & Eltham.
- Upgrade the Ōpunakē Water Treatment Plant.
- Replace the Waverley water bore.



MANA MAURI CULTURAL WELL-BEING

- Complete Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, South Taranaki's new Library, Culture and Arts Centre.
- Complete Earthquake strengthening and upgrade of Eltham Town Hall
- Upgrade Kaponga LibraryPlus
- Replace or strengthen and refurbish the Manaia War Memorial Hall and Manaia Sports Complex (Project Tūkau).
- Implement the Iwi-Council Partnership Strategy - He Pou Tikanga Ngā iwi o te Tai Whakarunga.



MANA TANGATA SOCIAL WELL-BEING

- Undertake town centre upgrades in Pātea, Waverley, Manaia, Ōpunakē and Eltham and complete the Hāwera Town centre upgrade.
- Upgrade Waverley Swimming Pool plant.
- Build new toilets in Ōhawe, Ōpunakē Lake, Pātea and Rāhotu.
- Implement digital transformation programme to replace Council's ageing digital infrastructure.
- Build a new pump track at Aotea Park in Waverley.
- Upgrade the Pātea Beach Camp amenities block.
- Upgrade the Waverley Grandstand.

TARANAKI KI TE TONGA – KA PUTA, KA ORA!
SOUTH TARANAKI – GREAT PEOPLE, CONNECTED
COMMUNITIES, WHERE WE BELONG!

South Taranaki

2024-2034

Looking after what we've got

Long Term Plan Consultation Document

UPGRADING THE ELTHAM TOWN HALL
REVIEWING FEES AND CHARGES

INVESTING IN OUR ROADING INFRASTRUCTURE
INCREASING YOUR RATES SUBSIDY

South Taranaki District Council

Quick Facts

- 65% of our (STDC) total operating expenditure and 91% of our capital expenditure is spent on our core infrastructure.
- The Council's largest annual operating expense is on roading. Over the next ten years Council has budgeted to spend \$466 million (including both operational and capital spending) on this activity.
- Rates are projected to account for 58% of the Council's total revenue over the next ten years. Revenue coming from rates has declined by more than 4% since 2018/19 as the Council receives a larger proportion of grants and subsidies.

Comments must be received by

5pm,
Monday 6
May 2024

Have your say!

- www.southtaranaki.com/longtermplan
- Email longtermplan@stdc.govt.nz
- Hard copy feedback form
- Phone 06 278 0555 or toll free 0800 111 323

